

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/991,880

Examiner

Vicky A. Johnson

Applicant(s)

NANKO, YOSHIAKI

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## -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed February 10, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13 and 15-21.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 November 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 1-13, and 15-21 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: There is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art of the claimed combination having the mounting portion being configured and arranged relative to the first and second mounting flanges to define a transverse center plane that is perpendicular to the second pivot axis and passes between the first and second mounting flanges and through the center axis of the curved mounting surface with the first mounting flange being located on a first side of the center plane and the second mounting flange being located on a second side of the center plane that is opposite to the first side of the plane, the center plane being equally spaced and parallel to a transverse front plane passing through a forward most edge of the curved mounting surface and a transverse rear plane passing through a rearward most edge of the curved mounting surface, the front and rear planes defining a mounting area there between, the first and second mounting flanges having different axial widths as measured along the second pivot axis with the wider of the first and second mounting flanges being arranged such that a majority of its axial width is located outside the mounting area in an axial direction, the first and second mounting flanges having first and second rear surfaces that are spaced apart by an axial distance larger than an axial space between the front and rear planes; re claim 2, a curved mounting surface having a center axis, the mounting portion being configured and arranged to define a transverse front plane passing through a forward most edge of the curved mounting surface, the front and rear planes defining a mounting area there between, the

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first and second mounting flanges having different axial widths as measured along the second pivot axis with the wider of the first and second mounting flanges being arranged such that a majority of its axial width is located outside the mounting area in an axial direction; re claims 9 and 20, the first and second mounting flanges having different axial widths, as measured along the second pivot axis, the first mounting flange extending axially along the second pivot axis away from the mounting portion of the fixed member to form a first link receiving recess between the first mounting flange and the mounting portion of the fixed member such that the first link is at least partially disposed in the first link receiving recess to be at least partially aligned with the first mounting flange in a direction perpendicular to the first and second pivot axes.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vicky A. Johnson whose telephone number is (703) 305-3013. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:00a-3:30p).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Bucci can be reached on (703) 308-3668 or (571) 272-7099. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

vaj <sup>WY</sup> 3/28/05

*Charles*  
MARCO GIANFRANCO  
PATENT EXAMINER  
March 30, 2005